((ग) पिछले तीन वर्षो के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश और दिल्ली में जारी किए गए एल पी कनेक्शनों की संख्या का ब्यौरा निम्नवत् है:-

(आंकड़े लाख में)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
उत्तर प्रदेश	4.30	3.88	5.04
दिल्ली	0.97	0.74	2.10

(घ) सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों की तेल कंपनियों के माध्यम से वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए 25 लाख नए कनेक्शनों और 25 लाख डी बी सी जारी किए जाने का अनुमोदन कर दिया है । उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए 1996-98 की अनुमोदित एल पी जी विपणन योजना में 351 नई एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप शामिल की गई है । दिल्ली के लिए एल पी जी विपणन योजना 1996-98 में कोई नई एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप शामिल नहीं की गई है । विज्ञापन की तारीख से किसी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप को चालू करने के लिए सामान्यत: लगभग 1-2 वर्ष लग जाते हैं।

Price System for Petroleum Products

420. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering revision of the scheme to dismantle the administered price system for petroleum products;

(b) if so, what are reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the main features of the revised scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

LNG Terminal at Cochin

421. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed an organisation named 'Petronet' to start the LNG Terminal at Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what arc the reasons for the undue delay in establishing the project;

(d) what are the steps taken by the Government to expedite the project; and

(e) whether the Petronet will complete the project without the financial support from NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Government have constituted Petronet LNG Ltd. with the Oil Public Sector Undertakings, GAIL, IOCL, ONGCL and BPCL, currently holding among themselves 50% of the equity. It is proposed to associate other parties also with the project including financing institutions, and possibly State Government Corporations and the NTPC.

Preliminary activities in respect of its projects have been commenced by Petronet LNG Ltd. and it is expected that financial closure on these projects would be achieved during 1999. Thereafter, the projects are expected to be realised within a period of 36 to 42 months.

Import of Furnace and Crude Oil by Private Refineries

422. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private refineries can now import furnace oil and crude oil for their own use only;

(b) whether the private companies have established infrastructure to store and handle this own imported oil;

(c) whether the private sector find it financially viable to establish infrastructure for their limited use; and

(d) what is the viability of this concession for the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) According to the current Exim Policy, Private and Joint Sector refineries can import crude oil freely without an import licence for actual use in their own refineries. Import of Furnace Oil has also been decanalised.

Refineries are set-up on techno-economic considerations and import facilities etc. are usually part of the Refinery Projects.

LPG Gas Agency in Sujanpur Teera

423. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number with their names of the Panchayats under Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh which are served by the LPG gas agency situated in Sujanpur Teera of Hamirpur district;

(b) the number of such villages with their names which are situated at a distance of 500 to 2000 yards from the main road or mortorable road and the details of the gas connections provided in these villages;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake the work of home delivery through the agency in these villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There are 26 Gram Panchayats in the district of Kangra in Himachal Pradesh, where LPG is served by LPG distributor at Sujanpur Tira in the district of Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh).

(b) There are 75 villages in 26 Gram Panchayats of Kangra district, which are served by the LPG distributor at Sujanpur Tira. A total of 2976 custgomcrs in the 75 villages are being served by the LPG distributor at Sujanpur Tira, district Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh).

(c) and (d) The cost for providing home delivery in such villages which are thinly populated, scattered in different directions and situated far off from the main distributor's point, is too prohibitive for distributors. Passing of cost for providing home delivery on customers by way of additional cooliage charges will discourage customers from use of LPG. As such, home delivery of LPG refills in the various villages of Kangra district by LPG distgributor situated at Sujanpur Tira will not be economically viable.

Tapti Gas to Pipavav Gas Based Power Project

424. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made a commitment to allocate Tapti Gas to Pipavav Gas Based Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the commitment has been i fulfilled;